

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 05487 310101Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3445

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5487

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB

SUBJ: LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO

REF: USUN 5470

1. MAY I BESPEAK YOUR ATTENTION TO THE LETTER OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO WHICH YOU ARE PRESUMABLY TO SEND ON MONDAY. I HAVE DONE A COMPLETE REDRAFT, WHICH IS NOW IN WASHINGTON. IT MAKES THE BEST OF WHAT, AS YOU MUST KNOW, I CONSIDER A BAD BUSINESS. AT VERY LEAST I HOPE THAT SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF MY DRAFT WILL BE USED.

2. LET ME SUMMARIZE MY FEARS. THE FIRST REACTION WILL BE ONE OF MILD SHOCK, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD, AND OF COURSE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. YOU MUST EXPECT A BAD PRESS EVERYWHERE. MY DRAFT IS DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THAT, BY CONTENDING THAT WE DON'T REALLY PLAN TO WITHDRAW, BUT, RATHER MEAN TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT ENABLE US TO REMAIN. NONETHELESS, THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY WE WILL HAVE THREATENED TO WITHDRAW FROM AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND SINCE WE ARE DOING SO ON GROUNDS THAT ARE APPLICABLE TO ALMOST ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL, AND MOST ESPECIALLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THIS WILL BE SEEN BY MANY AS THE BEGINNING OF A GENERAL WITHDRAWAL. (AS ANY OF YOUR LEGAL OFFICERS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 05487 310101Z

WILL TELL YOU, THE ILO, WHEN COMPARED WITH, SAY, THE UN

ITSELF, HAS BEEN METICULOUS ABOUT STICKING TO THE RULES.
NOTE THAT ISRAEL IS NOT WITHDRAWING.) I WOULD ASSUME
THERE WILL FOLLOW A SHORT-TERM DECLINE IN AMERICAN INFLUENCE
IN ORGANIZATIONS WHERE IT IS ASSUMED WE MAY BE ON THE WAY
OUT, RATHER LIKE THE BRITISH EAST OF SUEZ. SOME AT LEAST
WILL RECALL THAT IT WAS WITHDRAWALS, NOT EXPULSIONS,
THAT CRIPPLED THE LEAGUE.

3. THE LONG-TERM EFFECT, I ASSUME, WILL BE WORSE. I HAVE
NOT THE SLIGHTEST EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL IN THE NEXT TWO
YEARS GET OURSELVES TOGETHER AND AGREE NOT TO WITHDRAW
FROM THE ILO. I ASSUME WE WILL IN FACT DEPART AND THE
COMMUNISTS WILL PROCEED TO TAKE OVER THE ORGANIZATION.

4. ANYWAY, I DO ASK YOU TO LOOK AT THIS, AND PERHAPS HAVE
WIN LORD DO SO AS WELL. REMEMBER THAT NO ONE IN STATE
DEPARTMENT OR LABOR DEPARTMENT BUREAUCRACY REALLY
UNDERSTANDS WHY WE ARE GIVING THIS NOTICE. IF YOU DON'T
BELIEVE ME, READ SOME OF THE EARLIER DRAFTS OF YOUR LETTER
OF INTENT.

5. WARM REGARDS.
MOYNIHAN

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